



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,598	10/29/2003	Adam L. Cohen	P-US083-A-MG	7855
32107 7590 07/16/2008 MICROFABRICA INC. ATT: DENNIS R. SMALLEY 7911 HASKELL AVENUE VAN NUYS, CA 91406			EXAMINER STEWART, ALVIN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3774	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			07/16/2008 PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,598

Applicant(s)

COHEN, ADAM L.

Examiner

Alvin J. Stewart

Art Unit

3774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 3 and 10-13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 6-9 and 14-20 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 4, 6-9 and 14-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claims 3 and 10-13 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 4/28/08.

NOTE: the Applicant's representative has two claims numbered 18. The first claim has been numbered 18 instead of claim 16. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ley et al US Patent 7,060,089 B2.

Ley et al discloses a stent having a plurality of ring-like elements spaced from one another along a longitudinal axis, flexible connecting members joining selected ring elements, wherein each ring element comprises a plurality of inner and outer ring elements joined by structural elements.

Claims 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(c) as being anticipated by Kveen et al US Patent 6,042,597.

Kveen et al discloses a stent having struts and wherein at least a portion of the struts have pockets located therein with passages and the passages extend in a spiral fashion (see fig. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ley et al US Patent 7,060,089 in view of Cohen US Patent 6,027,630.

NOTE: the Examiner wants to clarify that the limitations entered in claims 6-9 are product by process claims. A comparison of the recited process with the prior art processes does NOT serve to resolve the issue concerning patentability of the product. In re Fessman, 489 F2d 742, 180 U.S.P.Q. 324 (CCPA 1974). Whether a product is patentable depends on whether it is known in the art or it is obvious, and is not governed by whether the process by which it is made is patentable. In re Klug, 333 F2d 905, 142 U.S.P.Q. 161 (CCPA 1964). In an ex parte case, product-by-process claims are not construed as being limited to the product formed by the specific process recited. In re Hirao et al., 535 F2d 67, 190 U.S.P.Q. 15, see footnote 3 (CCPA 1976). However, the Examiner used the Cohen reference in order to clarify that the steps used in the application are well known.

Ley et al discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Ley et al does not disclose a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

As mentioned in the Applicant's specification, Cohen discloses the step of fabricating from a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Ley et al reference with the steps of forming a stent as mentioned in the Cohen reference because Applicant has not disclosed that by having the specific step provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the Ley et al teaching because it would perform equally as well.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the Ley et al reference to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

Regarding the sacrificial bridges, the Examiner has not examined those limitations because the sacrificial materials are not part of the final product of the stent.

Claims 14-16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kveen et al US Patent 6,042,597 in view of Cohen US Patent 6,027,630.

NOTE: the Examiner wants to clarify that the limitations entered in claims 14-16 and 18-20 are product by process claims. A comparison of the recited process with the prior art processes does NOT serve to resolve the issue concerning patentability of the product. In re Fessman, 489 F2d 742, 180 U.S.P.Q. 324 (CCPA 1974). Whether a product is patentable depends on whether it is known in the art or it is obvious, and is not governed by whether the process by which it is made is patentable. In re Khug, 333 F2d 905, 142 U.S.P.Q. 161 (CCPA 1964). In an ex parte case, product-by-process claims are not construed as being limited to the product formed by the specific process recited. In re Hirao et al, 535 F2d 67, 190 U.S.P.Q. 15, see footnote 3 (CCPA 1976). However, the Examiner used the Cohen reference in order to clarify that the steps used in the application are well known.

Kveen et al discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Kveen et al does not disclose a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

As mentioned in the Applicant's specification, Cohen discloses the step of fabricating from a plurality of adhered layers of deposited material.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Kveen et al reference with the steps of forming a stent as mentioned in the Cohen reference because Applicant has not disclosed that by having the specific step provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the Kveen et al teaching because it would perform equally as well.

Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the Kveen et al reference to obtain the invention as specified in claims 4 & 17.

Regarding the sacrificial bridges, the Examiner has not examined those limitations because the sacrificial materials are not part of the final product of the stent.

Regarding claim 20, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the Kveen et al reference with a cover lining having a beneficial drug for the purpose of treating a patient's blood vessel targeted area.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin J. Stewart whose telephone number is 571-272-4760. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM-5:30PM(1 Friday B-week off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Isabella can be reached on 571-272-4749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Alvin J Stewart/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3774

July 14, 2008.